

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for a pivot assembly for hard disk drive use comprising:

two ball bearings, each comprising an outer ring;

a shaft,

~~a pivot assembly for hard disk drive use in which~~ wherein said ball bearings have been mated with both ends of ~~[a]the~~ shaft; ~~and~~

an inner wall part, ~~at the~~ mounted on the shaft, and extending to an outer circumference of these the outer ring of said ball bearings; ~~has mated a sleeve disposed between both of said ball bearings, and~~

a sleeve, disposed between both of said ball bearings, and mated to the inner wall part,

wherein said sleeve is fixed by means of laser welding to the outer rings of said ball bearings.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sleeve further comprises on the outer circumference of said sleeve a concave part formed in the outer circumference of said sleeve and having a bottom wall in that reaches up to the vicinity of the outer circumference of said outer ring is formed, and wherein the bottom wall of this concave part is laser welded with the outer circumference of said outer ring.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the concave part is a groove that extends along the entire circumference of said sleeve.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the concave part is comprised of holes provided separated from each other in the circumferential direction of said sleeve.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sleeve further comprises ~~wherein on the outer circumference of said sleeve,~~ a hole extending from ~~linked to~~ the outer circumference of said sleeve to the outer circumference of said outer ring ~~is formed~~, and wherein the edge part of this hole is laser welded to the outer circumference of said outer ring.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a rolling groove in the outer ring of the ball bearing, wherein said laser welding is carried out at places on the outer ring separated in the axial direction from the rolling groove of said outer ring.